



INL invests in science education programs to boost workforce of future

By [Lori McNamara](#) for *INL Communications & Governmental Affairs*

For teachers tasked with preparing the workforce of the future, Idaho National Laboratory has proven to be an excellent resource.

INL's educational programs target the growing need to strengthen public science education in the U.S. And the lab's diverse contributions reflect that the Department of Energy, INL and lab contractor Battelle Energy Alliance place a high priority on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education.

Because funding and resources are two major obstacles facing educators today, INL's STEM education initiatives try to target these areas. Contributions include funding for classroom materials and upgrades; continuing education and professional development for teachers; and support for students looking for ways to continue their STEM educations beyond high school. Learn more through the links at the right.

Laboratory Director John Grossenbacher notes the urgent need for Idaho, and the nation as a whole, to invest in a highly educated work-force.

"That's something that all of us — all businesses, all citizens in Idaho — own," he says. "We need to invest in that and be demanding of the highest quality. If we're not, because there is plenty of competition out there, then we are going to fall behind."

Grossenbacher adds that graduates from China and India have entered the international workforce. "They are good — they are smart, they are motivated, well- educated. And they are beating us."



CAES Scholarships

Dual Credit Scholarship Program

ESTEC Nuclear Technician Program

Extreme Classroom Makeover

iSTEM Teacher Institute

Physics Teachers Workshop

Did You Know?

- Throughout Fiscal Year 2011, 198 INL interns were paid to work on real-world projects under the guidance of their mentors.
- Since 2006, 363 teachers have participated in the National Physics Teachers Workshop.
- Since 2006, Battelle has committed more than \$2.5 million to support STEM education in Idaho.
- Of the 30 fastest-growing occupations projected through 2016 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Outlook handbook, 16 of them will require substantial mathematics or science preparation.

INL joined with other major Idaho employers to support the Albertson Foundation's multimedia campaign that encourages students to continue their studies beyond high school. Hear Grossenbacher's plea for continuing education in its entirety in the video below, which was recorded as part of [Idaho's "Go-On" campaign](#).

